



Great Start Parent Voice



The Great Start Parent Coalition is an organization that represents the voice of parents, family, children and community. Parent Coalition leaders are the 'parent voice' in planning and decision-making for Michigan's Great Start System at the local level.

The mission of the Dickinson-Iron Great Start Parent Coalition is to engage and empower parents focusing on early childhood initiatives.

Parents Form Supportive Network

- Listen and help parents
- Organize family events
- Educate parents about early childhood needs
- Collaborate with community leaders
- Talk with legislators about services

Parent voice is the key to successful Great Start accomplishments. Parent voice matters and Great Start prioritizes parent leaders in supporting the needs of young children in communities.



JOIN NOW – Great Start Parent Coalition

- Talk with Great Start Parent Coalition Leaders
- Email or Call Parent Coordinator Jonathan
- Plan to attend a parent meeting
- Visit greatstart4kids.org website parent page
- Attend a Great Start Family Event

DICKINSON IRON GREAT START CORE PARENT LEADERS

Jonathan Ringel, Parent Coordinator

Kaitlyn Adrian, Trusted Advisor Facilitator

Brit Anderson

Jenny Baker

Megan Buck, Trusted Advisor Facilitator

Janice Gray, Trusted Advisor Facilitator

Sherry Smith-LaBrash

Katelynn Lorenzoni

Ruth Manier

Sara Pericolosi, Trusted Advisor Facilitator

Heather Poll

Curtis VanDusen

Kim Webb, Chair

Irene White

CHILDREN LOVE TO READ!





FAMILY EVENTS

Great Start Parent Coalition **BENEFITS**

- Network and meet new friends
- Share information with parent mentors
- Participate in parent leadership development
- Learn new information
- Engage with parents and make a difference

FAMILY EVENTS

ROBOTICS FOR CHILDREN

FEBRUARY - Teaching & Building Robotic Stations

FAMILY CELEBRATION

MARCH - Dinner, Activity Booths, Celebrate

ONE BIG DAY FOR HEALTHY KIDS

APRIL - Community Activity & Education Booths

FAMILY FUN DAYS

MAY & AUGUST - Picnic Lunch, Children Games

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

SEPTEMBER - Meet new parents, Dinner, Prizes

CHILDREN FIRST CELEBRATION

OCTOBER - Lunch, Leadership Awards, Fundraiser

COMMUNITY CONNECT EVENTS

NOVEMBER - Food, clothes, items to bring home

MEET SANTA

DECEMBER - Fun Snacks, Activities & SANTA

EDUCATION SERIES

Special presentations by parents-trusted advisors and community leaders. One hour information talks and discussions. Childcare available upon request. Education Series are offered during Fall and Spring months.

Education Series Fall Schedule

- CPR and First Aid Training with Certification
- Grandparents Parenting - 4 series
- Meet The Counselors
- Service Tool Kits
- Book Walk and Raise A Reader

MICHIGAN'S TRUSTED ADVISORS

Michigan's Department of Education and the Office of Great Start are providing Trusted Advisor Grants to interested Great Start Parent Coalitions. Great Start Parent Coalition's Trusted Advisor Grants support Michigan's Great Start Parent Coalitions in identifying, becoming engaged with, and developing community's systems with trusted advisors who improve linkage to families with children birth to age 5.

The Dickinson Iron Great Start Parent Coalition has been awarded 3 Trusted Advisor Grants. Grant initiatives implemented: [Education Series](#), [Grandparents Parenting](#) and the new [Parent Leadership Academy](#).

Jonathan Ringel
Great Start Parent
Coordinator
With Children
JOSIAH
& **EVA**



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